

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Indochina
SUBJECT Communist and Pro-Communist Officials in the
Ho Chi Minh Government

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Leading Communist Party of Indochina Officials

1. Dang Xuan Khu, aka Truong Chinh. Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Indochina (PCI). Khu was in Bac Kan when French troops parachuted into the area in October 1947. He managed to escape however and in early 1948 the publication of his book, The Inevitable Victory of Long-Term Resistance, secured him an important position in the Viet Minh and won him the support of the people. From early 1949 the slogan "Long Live Comrade Truong Chinh" appeared at every important Viet Minh meeting and his photograph was exhibited under that of Ho Chi Minh. Khu's success is based on these factors:

- When Ho Chi Minh was placed in charge of Communism throughout Southeast Asia, he found it necessary to train someone to take charge of less important domestic problems in Viet Nam.
- The lack of discipline among the high-ranking Communist can-bo, although not apparent, would possibly lead to a state of anarchy on Ho Chi Minh's death if no successor had been trained to take his place.

In addition to his work as Secretary-General of the PCI, Khu is gradually assuming Vo Nguyen Giap's position as PCI High Commissioner. Recently Khu has been handling such important problems as dissension among Viet Minh Army officers, which he refers to Ho Chi Minh only if he is unable to solve them. In general, there has been no criticism of Khu's rise in power. Giap, however, is clearly dissatisfied with the situation. In many cases, he refuses to handle even routine problems and insists that they be referred to Khu.

Khu also plans to give political lectures at the Nguyen Ai Quoc School, the political training school of the PCI, and in the government training courses for high-level can-bo. Ho Chi Minh has visited these classes several times.

In public, Khu appears modest and gay. Actually, he is cruel and insensitive.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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2. Vo Nguyen Giap, aka Comrade Van. Commander-in-Chief of the Viet Minh Army and of the guerrilla militia; Principal Political Commissar of the Viet Minh Tong-bo, the central committee of the PCI. Giap was formerly known to the ethnic minorities of Tan Trao, Quang Nap, Cho Chu and Cao Bang by the secret pseudonym of "Comrade Van". At that time, Giap married a can-bo named "Sister Thanh". After his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Viet Minh Army, however, Giap married another can-bo, the daughter of Dang Thai Mai. They have no children.

The assignment of Dang Xuan Khu as Secretary-General of the PCI, a position of authority equal to that of Giap, is in line with High Command policy of controlling Giap's actions. Giap was named Principal Political Commissar only to save him from embarrassment.

In spite of being a prominent member of the PCI, Giap still retains the manner of a "petit bourgeois."

3. Pham Van Dong. Vice President of the Ho Chi Minh Government and a high-ranking Commissar in the PCI. After having served as a High Commissioner of the Ho Chi Minh Government in South Central Viet Nam, Dong returned to North Viet Nam in 1949. When Ho failed to secure his appointment as President of the Council, he created the post of Vice President for Dong. Previously the Council had been composed only of Ho and his Ministers. The decree announcing Dong's appointment as Vice President caused alarm among Vietnamese far removed from the government, because it failed to include the name of the President. Ho Chi Minh concurrently assumed the positions of President of the Council and of the National Assembly.

Tong-bo members refer to the office of Pham Van Dong as the "Presidency," while Ho Chi Minh's office is actually some place else. Such confusion is the result of unsettled conditions in the High Command.

Contrary to the usual policy of Communist leaders, Pham Van Dong's staff includes some non-Communist members. Dong prefers to hire intellectuals, even if they are not Communists. Dong is an active person, with a decisive and simple manner.

4. To Si, aka Le Gian, aka Comrade Le. Director General of the Viet Minh Security Services and a high-ranking Commissar in the PCI. Le Gian ranks next in importance to Dang Xuan Khu, Vo Nguyen Giap and Pham Van Dong in the Viet Minh regime. Le Gian is one of Ho Chi Minh's closest associates and enjoys his absolute confidence. He spends more time working with Ho than in his own office. Since the arrival of the international mission at Ho Chi Minh headquarters, Le Gian spends almost all of his time with Ho.

During World War II, Le Gian was one of those parachuted into North Viet Nam by OSS. He had been imprisoned in Madagascar after the French surrender to Germany. During his underground activities, he was known as "Comrade Le" by the ethnic minorities.

Although Le Gian did not receive an extensive education, he is quick witted and is well suited for intelligence work. Unlike Pham Van Dong or Dang Xuan Khu, Le Gian is of a sentimental nature and appreciates good food and wine.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Political Can-bo

5. Ton Duc Thang. President of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly and a high-ranking Commissar in the PCI. Thang replaced Bui Bang Doan who is paralyzed and is taking a cure in Intersector IV. Thang himself is over 70 years old and his assignment as President of the Permanent Committee of the National Assembly was an honorary one. The Permanent Committee is almost completely inactive.
6. Hoang Quoc Viet. Secretary General of the Viet Minh Tong-bo.
7. Ho Tung Mau. Former Chairman of the Administrative and Resistance Committee of Intersector IV. He is now Inspector General of the Ho Chi Minh Government. In spite of the importance of his position, the Inspection Committee is made up of only three men, and Mau lacks the facilities to carry out his work.

Ho Tung Mau is deeply concerned with the future of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people. Like Huynh Thuc Khang**, he has retained the spirit of the Dong Kinh Nghia Thuc, a school established by a group of Vietnamese revolutionists early in the century to encourage a renaissance of national culture.
8. Le Van Hien. Minister of Finance; one of the leading Commissars of the PCI.
9. Nguyen Van Tao. Minister of Labor.
10. Nguyen Khanh Toan, aka Hong Linh. Sub-Secretary of State to the Ministry of Education. Toan spent many years in Moscow and was expected to receive the appointment of ambassador to Moscow. He was replaced in May 1950, however, by Duong Bach Mai**.
11. Tran Van Giau. Replaced Dr. Nguyen Tan Qi Trong as Director General of Information in February 1950. Like Nguyen Khanh Toan, Giau is proud, selfish and arbitrary. In matters of philosophy, he is surpassed only by Ho. He is an excellent speaker. Giau lacks the sense of discipline expected of a Communist.
12. Bui Cong Trung. Like Tran Van Giau, Bui Cong Trung is a Moscow-educated can-bo. He was graduated from the Stalin School and is a specialist in economics. He is not a capable administrator.
13. Xuan Thuy. Director of the newspaper Cuu Quoc. Judging from his editorials in Cuu Quoc, Xuan Thuy has few original ideas.

Xuan Thuy's wife is engaged in smuggling. During 1948 and 1949 her smuggling contacts were prominent merchants in Bac Ninh and Phuoc Yen.
14. Tran Huy Lieu. Like Xuan Thuy, Tran Huy Lieu's thinking is out of date and he is losing prestige in the Viet Minh regime. He is working with the Viet Nam Cultural Association.
15. Tran Duy Hung. Secretary of State to the Ministry of Interior. Hung joined the PCI at the close of World War II and became a very active can-bo. It is difficult to tell whether Hung is a firm believer in Communism or is an opportunist member of the PCI. He is a close friend of Le Gian and spends a great deal of time with him. Prior to 1945, Hung practiced medicine in Hanoi.

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- ## Military Can-bo

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